

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 696

INFO SECDEF

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, MILI, VE

SUBJECT: US MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT FOR
WIFE OF AIDE TO VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE

1. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED, THROUGH THE US AMBASSADOR AND THE CHIEF, US MILITARY GROUP, THAT MRS. VILMA LEONI, DEPENDENT WIFE OF COMMANDER LEONI FLORES, AIDE TO THE MINISTER, BE IMMEDIATELY ADMITTED TO A MILITARY HOSPITAL IN THE WASHINGTON AREA (US NAVAL HOSPITAL, BETHESDA PREFERRED) FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND TREATMENT. ALL EXPENSES WILL BE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.

2. DETECTION, EXAMINATION AND SUBSEQUENT REMOVAL OF TWO TUMOROUS MASSES NEAR THE UTERUS, FOLLOWED BY PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION, AT THE CENTRAL HOSPITAL OF THE VENEZUELAN ARMED FORCES REVEALED A KRUBEMBERG TUMOR. FURTHER EVALUATION BY THE GASTROENTEROLOGY SECTION FOUND SYMPTOMS COMPATIBLE WITH A STOMACH TUMOR. CERTAIN SPECIALIZED TESTS REMAIN TO BE DONE TO CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE AND SIZE OF THE STOMACH TUMOR.

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3. WHILE THE ARMED FORCES HOSPITAL HAS THE CAPABILITY OF HANDLING THIS TYPE CAE, THERE EXISTS AMONG VENEZUELAN A GENERAL LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF SERIOUS MEDICAL PROBLEMS.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE FEELING AND THE PERSONAL INTEREST

OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, I RECOMMEND THAT THIS REQUEST BE APPROVED. TO DO SO WILL GENERATE CONSIDERABLE GOODWILL TOWARD THE US THROUGH THE MINISTER, WHO RECENTLY ENTERED OFFICE AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN THERE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

5. AN ALTERNATIVE, SHOULD ADMITTANCE TO A MILITARY HOSPITAL BE DISAPPROVED UNAVOIDABLY, WOULD BE TO PROVIDE TIMELY AND PERSUASIVE ASSISTANCE, IN COORDINATION WITH THE VENEZUELAN NAVAL ATTACHE, IN OBTAINING THE ADMISSION OF MRS. LEONI TO AN APPROPRIATE CIVILIAN HOSPITAL IN THE WASHINGTON AREA. THE NAVAL ATTACHE HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THIS REQUEST FOR HOSPITALIZATION IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL THROUGH VENEZUELAN CHANNELS.
VAKY

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